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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

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February 8, 2007

Tam M. Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

(Via Facsimile 916-341-5620)

Re: February 20, 2007 Meeting Agenda – Financial Assistance/Agenda Item 6
Consideration of Approval of Additional IRWM Implementation Grants

Dear Chair Doduc and Members of the Board:

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (District), as a Partnering Agency in a Santa Barbara County IRWMP process, has attended presentations on the recently-announced joint proposal of the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board to eliminate the Prop 50, Cycle 2 grant application process in favor of awarding most of the remaining Prop 50 funding to the Cycle 1 applicants that were not selected during Step 2. While we understand the reasoning behind the proposal as expressed at the recent Scoping Meetings, we must – with all due respect – object to this last minute change in the grant program implementation. Also, it was understood that the guidelines might be changed for the Cycle 2 grant program; however, it was not contemplated that Cycle 2 might be eliminated altogether.

The Partnering Agencies with Santa Barbara County have collectively spent hundreds of hours of staff time and hundreds of thousands of ratepayer dollars over the past several months in order to be ready to submit a Prop 50 grant application in Cycle 2. The District requests that you reverse your tentative decision and proceed with an open and competitive process as initially intended for allocation of the remaining Prop 50 funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Chris Dahlstrom
General Manager

cc: Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources
IRWMP Partnering Agencies and Santa Barbara County